

ALABAMA NATIONAL GUARD

ANNUAL REPORT 2017



Front Cover: The Rainbow Soldier statue memorializing the Alabama National Guard's 167th Infantry Regiment's role in World War I in Montgomery, Alabama, Aug. 28, 2017. (Photo by Army Sgt. William Frye.)

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Kay Ivey

Governor of Alabama



The Adjutant General of Alabama



In compliance with the provision of the Code of Alabama 1975, Section 31-2-67, I am submitting this annual report for the Alabama National Guard for the period October 1, 2016, through September 30, 2017. In this report, I will highlight some of the most notable achievements of the Soldiers and Airmen of the Alabama National Guard in fiscal year 2017.

The Alabama National Guard works hard to ensure that we continue as a top employer in the state, employing more than 12,500 people. Though many of our jobs are part-time, they provide full-time benefits such as quality and affordable health insurance, thrift savings plan with matching funds, pension, excellent education benefits, and world-class and marketable skills training. Part-time Soldiers and Airmen in the Alabama National Guard are also a valuable asset to hundreds of employers throughout the state as full-time employees who are trained in leadership and abide by the Army and Air Force values.

We have also worked hard to fulfill a vision of stewardship through increasing our dedication to partnerships and resource integration with other state agencies, as well as federal, local, and community partners. We are proud to create an approximately \$1.9 billion annual economic impact in Alabama, bringing in as much as three federal funding dollars for each state funding dollar for some projects.

The Alabama National Guard continues to focus on our dual-mission of fighting our nation's wars and supporting our state authorities in times of need. We had approximately 1,000 Soldiers and Airmen deployed overseas for our federal mission at any given time during fiscal year 2017; and we provided our unique capabilities and expertise as we worked with our partners at the Alabama Emergency Management Agency, Alabama Law Enforcement Agency and others to provide support during wildfires and winter weather response.

As we embark on the year ahead, I respectfully submit the following summary of our fiscal year 2017 accomplishments.

Adjutant General Alabama National Guard



Major General Sheryl Gordon

Sheryl E. Gordon

**Sheryl Gordon
The Adjutant General**

The Dual Role of the National Guard

The National Guard is the only organization in the U.S. military charged with both a federal and a state mission. This unique dual mission makes the National Guard distinctly different from the active component, the U.S. Army and Air Force Reserve and all other services which have strictly federal missions.

As commander-in-chief of all American armed forces, the president can call the National Guard into federal service based on the needs of the nation in support of overseas contingency operations, homeland defense or other federal missions. The request for forces comes through the secretary of defense, the Departments of the Army and Air Force and the National Guard Bureau to the state adjutant general.

The federal mission of the National Guard is “to provide properly trained and equipped units for prompt mobilization for war or national emergency” (Title 10, United States Code).

The National Guard’s **state mission** is “to provide trained and disciplined forces for natural disasters, domestic emergencies, or as otherwise prescribed by law” (Code of Alabama § 31-2-52).

An Alabama National Guard UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter with Bambi bucket assembly provides aerial water delivery, at the request of the Alabama Emergency Management Agency, in support of forest fire suppression efforts in DeKalb County, Alabama, Nov. 19, 2016. (Photo by Army Sgt William Frye.)



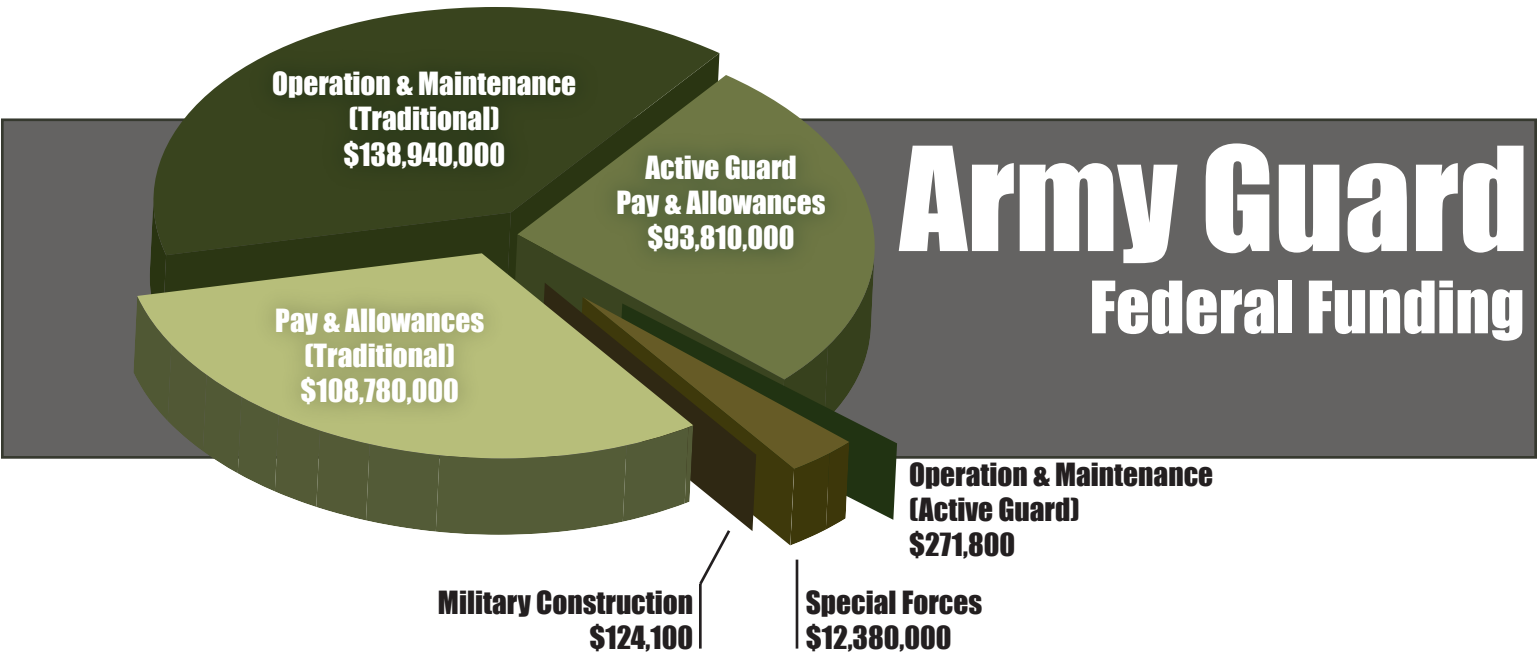
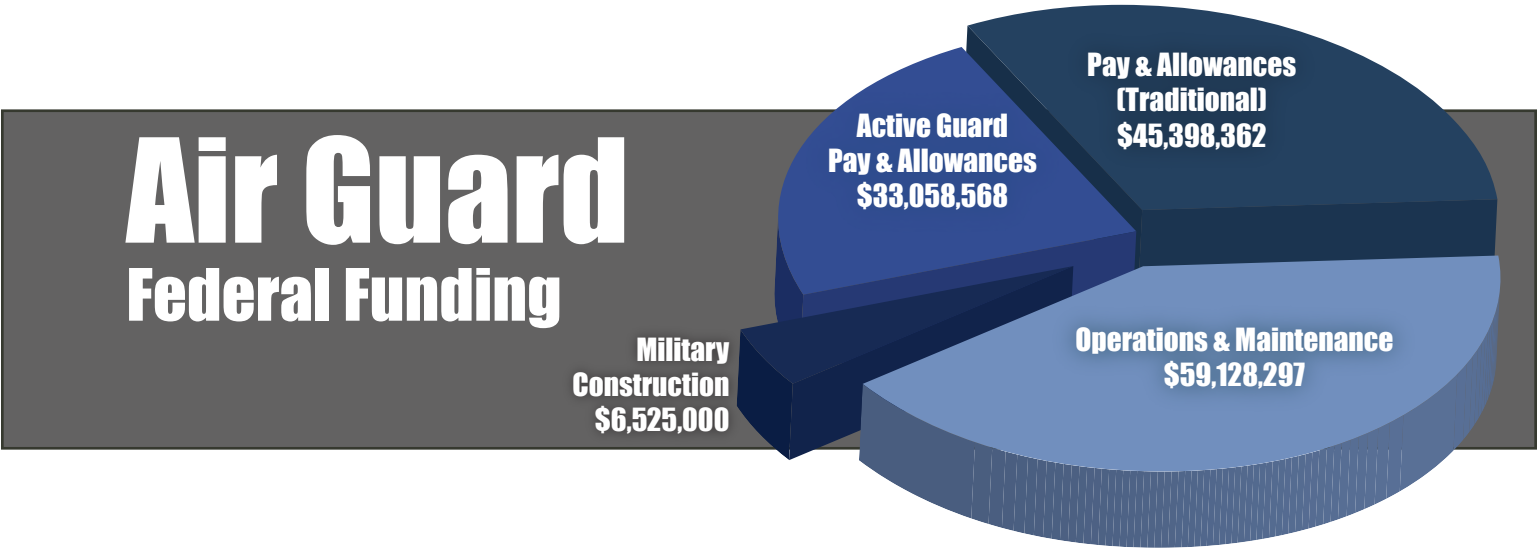
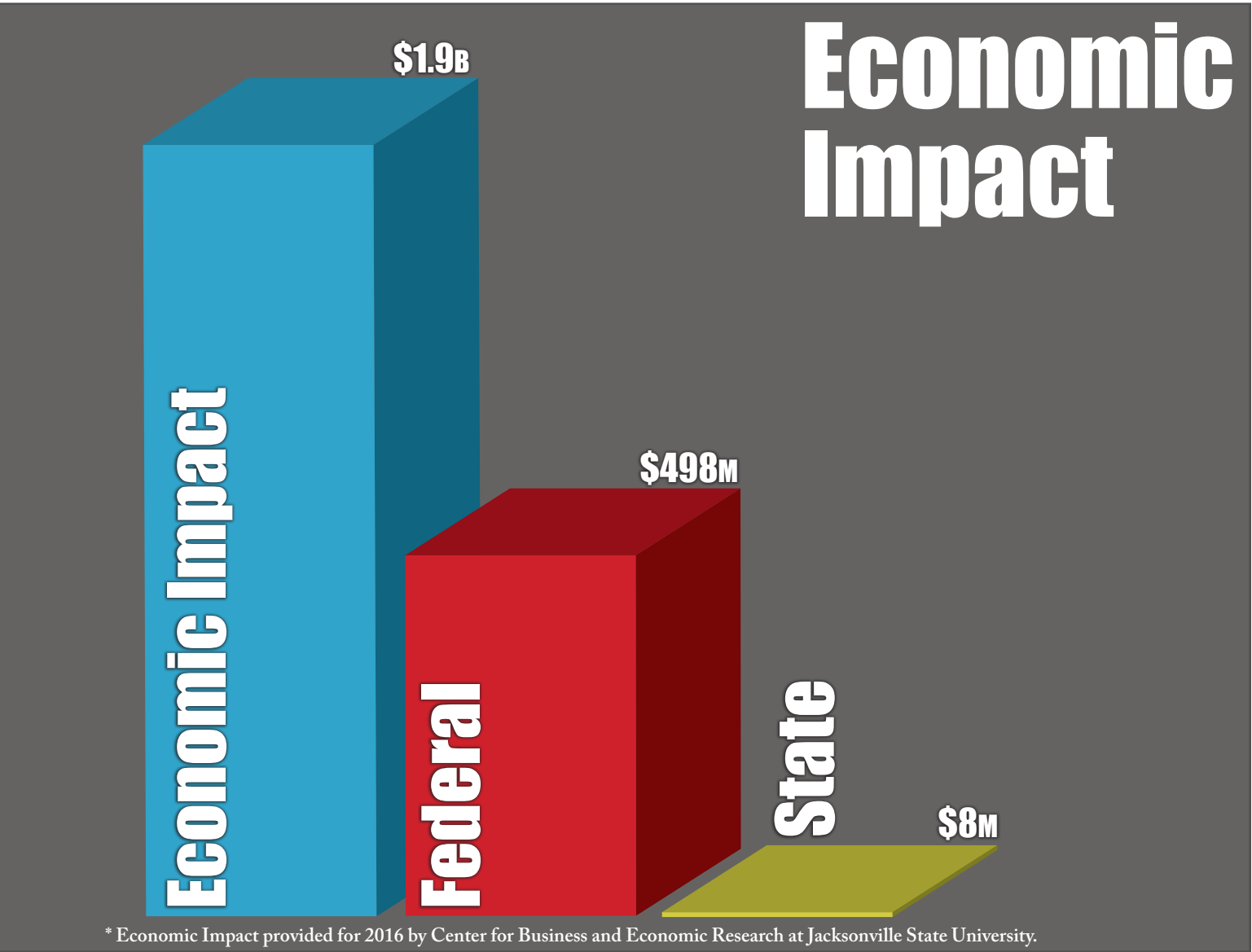
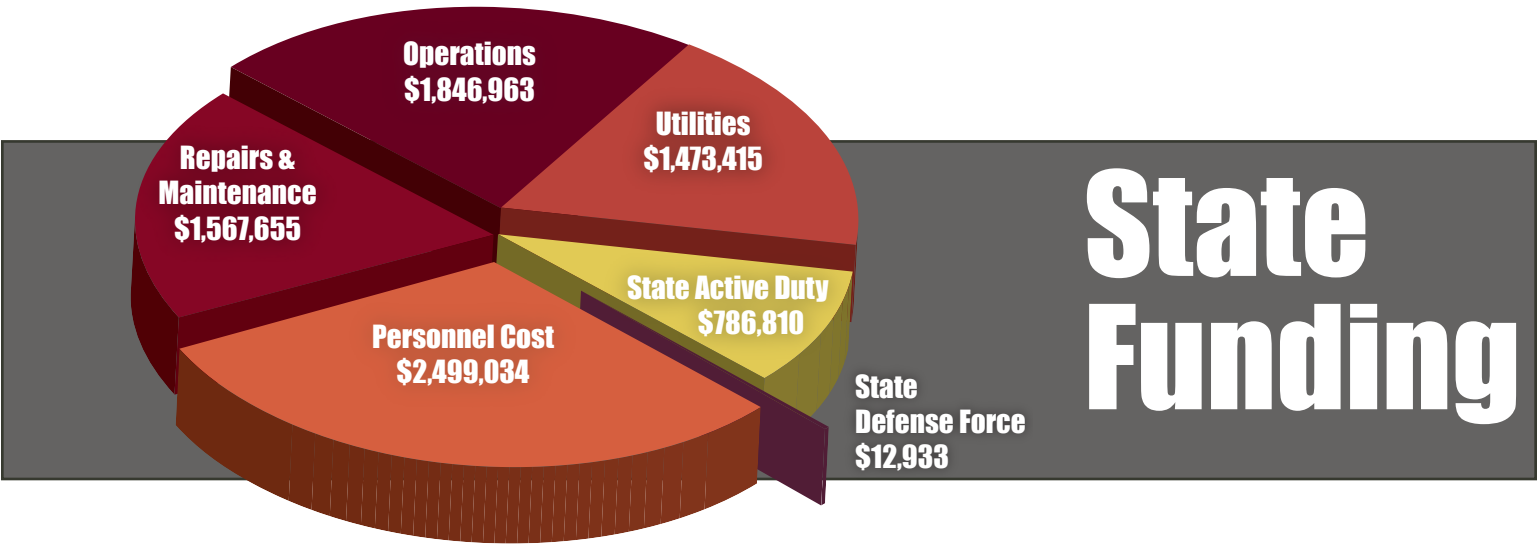
The governor of Alabama serves as commander-in-chief of the National Guard in the state. The governor, through the adjutant general, calls individuals, elements or entire units to state active duty based on the needs of the state. The National Guard can provide emergency relief, rescue and recovery support after disasters such as floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, wildfires and snow or ice storms. The Guard can also provide maintenance of public services such as power generation, water purification, security and traffic control. This support is provided at the request of the Alabama Emergency Management Agency with the approval of the governor.

In order to fulfill this unique **dual mission**, the Alabama National Guard relies on resources provided by Congress, the Department of Defense, the National Guard Bureau, the governor of Alabama and the Alabama Legislature.

Economic Success

The Alabama National Guard is key to Alabama's economic health and success.

- Executed 20 projects totaling \$31.9 million (\$22.9 million federal/ \$9 million state) for repair, maintenance, and modernization of current facilities.
- Executed \$15.5 million of federal funding for master planning, facility services, and base operations services.
- During fiscal year 2017, the Alabama Army National Guard successfully managed and executed federal funding in excess of \$97.5 million to support individual training, annual training, military schools, military exercises, Special Forces sustainment training, overseas contingency operations, new equipment fielding, and new equipment training. The Alabama Army National Guard sent more than 1,790 Soldiers to military schools totaling \$11.2 million in fiscal year 2017.



Top Employer

The Alabama National Guard is one of the top employers in Alabama.

- During fiscal year 2017, we achieved 100 percent of our target end strength ceiling with 10,226 Soldiers. We also accessed 109 basic branch commissioned officers, 21 special branch commissioned officers, and 26 warrant officers, and enlisted 1,191 service members. The 22nd Recruiting and Retention Battalion worked with unit members and their assigned units to retain 1,114 Soldiers, attaining 112.6 percent of the National Guard Bureau retention goal for Alabama.
- The Alabama Army National Guard's Construction and Facilities Management Office manages approximately 200 state employees at a minimal cost to the state, and an 84 percent federal reimbursement of \$5.7 million for facility operations & maintenance.
- The Alabama National Guard supports local communities, employers and employees with contracts for routine maintenance of facilities in excess of \$7 million.
- Processed approximately 675 incentive contracts totaling more than \$3.5 million for Soldiers entering the Alabama National Guard.
- Partnered with the Alabama Commission on Higher Education to implement a new law improving the Alabama National Guard Education Assistance Program.
- Provided more than \$2 million in tuition assistance to Alabama Army National Guardsmen to include more than \$500,000 in state funds and \$1.5 million in federal funds.



The Air National Guard's 232nd Combat Communications Squadron personnel operate the Joint Incident Site Communications Capability (JISCC) supporting the Global Medic Exercise at Fort Hunter Liggett, California.



The 166th Engineer Company hard at work during its annual training at Fort McClellan, Anniston, Alabama, Aug. 8, 2017. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Robert Ray.)

National Guard Strength

Workforce		
Duty status - Federal	Army	Air
Traditional/Part Time	8,448	1,696
Active Guard	873	189
Military Technician	732	428
Total Soldiers and Airmen	10,053	2,313
Duty status - State		
State Employees - Full Time	213	68
State Employees - Part Time	52	0
Total Workforce	265	68

Education

Service	High School Only	Some College	Four Year Degree	Masters Degree	Doctoral Degree
Army	59.6%	18.1%	16.2%	4.8%	1.3%
Air	9.5%	70.5%	13.3%	4.9%	1.3%

Ethnicity/Race

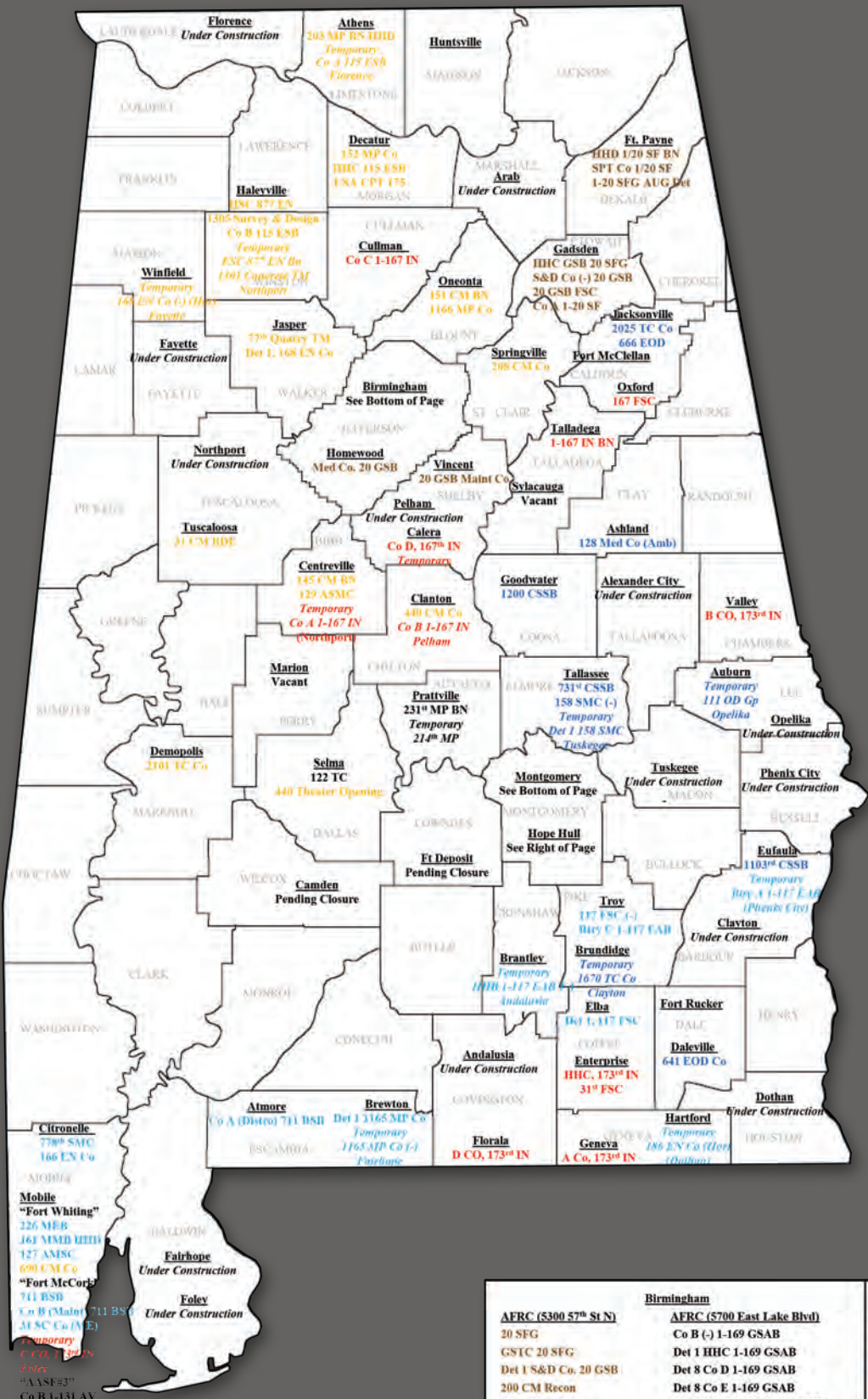
Service	White	Black	Hispanic	Other
Army	66.6%	30.1%	1.2%	1.5%
Air	71.2%	24.9%	0%	3.8%

Gender Ratio	
Male	Female
81.6%	18.3%
80.7%	19.3%

Stewardship

The Alabama National Guard is a leader in stewardship of funds, material, and the environment.

- Executed \$975,000 of federal funding supporting a robust sustainability program focused on energy and water conservation.
 - Energy utilization reduced by 34.58 percent compared to fiscal year 2016 (primarily due to natural gas reduction due to weather pattern).
 - Successful reduction in overall energy use over past ten fiscal years.
 - Water Consumption reduced by 5.27 percent compared to fiscal year 2016. Successful reduction in overall water use over past six fiscal years.
- Revitalized and modernized four facilities in the amount of \$12 million which greatly contributed to extending the facilities' overall life.
- The Alabama Army National Guard Environmental Program received recognition from the Department of Defense – Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Housing and Environmental for Cultural Resources and Geospatial Information Systems Program Management.
- Acquired at no cost a 45,000 square foot underutilized facility on Maxwell Air Force Base Gunter Annex, Montgomery, Alabama, for an additional readiness center. This acquisition resulted in an estimated \$17 million savings in federal military construction dollars and \$3.2 million savings in state construction funds.
- Transformed an annual battery disposal expense of \$30,000 into a revenue generation of \$40,000 through the utilization of a qualified recycling program.
- Implemented plans to expand recycling efforts via a new recycling center (approximately 4,000 square feet) and processing equipment at Fort McClellan Training Center; began renovation of an existing warehouse (approximately 2,400 square feet) to include processing equipment at the State Military Department Headquarters.
- Through internal audits, the deputy chief of staff for information management made changes to the multi-functional device inventory that will save the Alabama National Guard an estimated \$600,000 over the course of five years. Other changes made in the administrative services program is estimated to save approximately \$22,000 in 2017.
- Completed a biannual audit of personnel property assigned to the State Military Department by the state auditor's office with no shortages.
- Executed approximately 65 percent of the \$30 million state bond. This bond money funded contracts to improve National Guard armories. Remainder of bond funded contracts will be executed by mid fiscal year 2018.
- The Alabama National Guard logistics staff managed the annual federal funding program of \$26 million with a 99.9 percent execution rate in support of equipment maintenance costs and a wide variety of supplies and services for units around the state.



AFRC (5300 57th St N)		AFRC (5700 East Lake Blvd)		SMD		Taylor-Hardin	
20 SFG		Co B (-) 1-169 GSAB		JFHQ (TAG Staff)		62 Troop Command	
GSTC 20 SFG		Det 1 HHC 1-169 GSAB		JFHQ (Army Staff)		781st TC Co	
Det 1 S&D Co. 20 GSAB		Det 8 Co D 1-169 GSAB		22 R&R BN			
200 CM Recon		Det 8 Co E 1-169 GSAB		151 Army Band			
1-20 SFG Aug Det		Det 1 Co A 1-114 S&S AV BN		131 MPAD			
701 QM TM Rigger Det		Co B Det 4, 449 CS BN		Time Ave		G.C. Wallace	
Det 1 JFHQ (HSC, Army Staff)		131 Aviation Support Co		46 CST		Rys R 1-117 EAB	
Med Det -AL							
AFRC (Oxmoor Rd)		Eglin AFB-FL					
135 ESC		Training Center - Eglin					

Partnerships

The Alabama National Guard develops partnerships to share resources and work toward common goals.

- The Alabama Army National Guard facilities provide communities with a place to conduct civic and recreational activities such as voting, sporting and other community events, distributing commodities and sheltering from storms. These locations include 80 armories, the State Military Department Headquarters, the Fort McClellan Army National Guard Training Center, two combined surface maintenance shops, 14 field maintenance shops, three unit training equipment storage sites, three Army aviation support facilities, and enclaves at Fort Rucker, Redstone Arsenal, and Eglin Air Force Base, Florida. Currently, approximately 60 percent of these facilities are in poor or failing condition and need restoring or replacing.
- The Alabama National Guard completed the renovation of the Geneva National Guard Readiness Center, originally opened in 1956, and partnership with the Geneva County and City Schools in providing a Career Technical Training Center for area students. The Alabama Army National Guard's Construction and Facilities Management Office plans to work with other local governments in the future to continue with more of this type of project.

The Alabama National Guard partnered with state and local boards of education to renovate and expand the facility to meet the needs of a National Guard unite and a new career technical center to serve the Geneva area. This renovation project is the first of its kind to be completed in Alabama, and was accomplished using federal, state, and local funds to share the cost and create savings for the Guard, the state of Alabama, and local school systems.



Fort Fred M. Fleming, a shared facility between the Alabama National Guard and the Geneva School system, in Geneva, Alabama. (Aerial photo by High 5 Productions.)



Alabama National Guardsmen with Romanian Military Land Forces members touring the 226th Combat Communications Group Eagle Vision VI site in Huntsville, Alabama. (Photo by SSgt Joshua Zink.)

- Developed implementation plan for establishing Alabama Law Enforcement Agency Trooper post in Selma Armory, which will result in excess of \$175,000 annual savings to the state. The lease is being executed by State Military Department at this time.
- The Alabama National Guard entered a partnership with the Alabama Department of Rehabilitative Services which provides services to state and federal employees through the Retaining A Valued Employee program, providing creative accommodations for employee workstations which assist in the performance of their duties.
- Actively seeking various state agencies for new construction and co-location partnerships in Andalusia, Dothan, Opelika, Phenix City and Phenix City Schools.
- Consulted with municipalities and other agencies for options concerning partnering on real property acquisitions and joint usage of facilities in order to diminish costs.
- Information management personnel participated in the governor's Office of Information Technology Digital Government Summit that provided valuable professional development and opportunities for Alabama Military Department IT personnel. Alabama National Guardsmen continue to participate in the governor's Alabama First Responder Wireless Commission.
- The 100 year celebration of Fort McClellan, an event that was open to the local community, drew more than 2,000 people to Fort McClellan. The training site partnered with National Guard units from across the state, local law enforcement and emergency response personnel, and city leadership to give citizens the opportunity to see the work and training the Alabama National Guard conducts on Fort McClellan.

Always Ready

The Alabama National Guard is always ready in times of disaster to support local authorities with our unique capabilities and expertise.

- The Alabama Army National Guard mobilized more than 1,000 Soldiers during fiscal year 2017 for overseas deployments in support of Operations Enduring Freedom, Freedom's Sentinel, Guantanamo Bay Cuba, Inherent Resolve, Ocean Shield and various Special Operation missions.
- The Alabama National Guard executed more than 3,200 man-days (man-day = 1 service member working one day; example: 12 service members working 10 days is 120 man-days) in support of civil authorities for two state-declared winter storm emergencies and hurricane response operations to five named storms. This response included the service members working in support of Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands via the emergency management assistance compact.
- The Alabama Army National Guard currently operates and maintains 116 primary facilities along with 5,850 support buildings and structures in 92 communities across the state. These assets serve training operations, maintenance, and logistics functions.
- In 2017, our 12-Soldier Defensive Cyber Operations - Element participated in two cyber security exercises that are by invitation only: Cyber Gateway Exercise in Huntsville, Alabama, and Cyber Shield 2017 at Camp W. G. Williams, Utah. These exercises help prepare Alabama's cyber team for possible real-world support to civil authorities.
- In its efforts to remain prepared for its civil support mission, the Alabama National Guard conducted the annual hurricane and winter storm training exercises. Guardsmen also participated in the Alabama Emergency Management Agency's nuclear power plant exercises, the governor's hurricane exercise, a civil disturbance table-top exercise, and an active shooter exercise.
- Maintained a fully functional continuous operations site capable of providing key information technology capabilities to Alabama National Guard forces during potential disaster that may damage or destroy primary systems. The continuity of operations plan ensures Alabama National Guard leadership can continue to effectively command and control forces engaged in defense support to civil authorities missions.
- The Alabama Army National Guard maintains 39 armory sites with emergency power systems throughout the state, with an emergency power generation capacity of 5.012 megawatts. This emergency power can be used for Alabama National Guard personnel or others as tasked during a defense support to civil authorities mission.

Right: F-16s from the Alabama Air National Guard's 187th Fighter Wing perform a flyover at Troy University in Troy, Alabama, Sept. 23, 2017.



Air National Guard

Major Command Updates



117th Air Refueling Wing

Overview: The 117th Air Refueling Wing, headquartered in Birmingham, provides quality worldwide air refueling, airlift, support, logistics, intelligence, and medical services in support of our community, state, and nation.



After a brief rain shower, the flight line at the 117th Air Refuelling Wing, Birmingham, Alabama, reflects a colorful sunset to close the day. (U.S. Air National Guard Illustration by Master Sgt. Ken Johnson.)

■ By the numbers:

- Approximately 2,500 personnel and families living off-base in community
- \$628 million annual payroll
- \$30.6 million annual expenditures: construction, travel, materials, equipment & supplies
- \$15.5 million estimated value of indirect jobs created
- \$109 million estimated total annual economic impact
- Incalculable community involvement impact

- Constructed an \$8.5 million Distributed Ground System Intelligence building. This state of the art facility was constructed by in-state contractors and houses worldwide capability for intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance data processing. An additional \$1 million of secure communication infrastructure and furnishings will complete the facility.



187th Fighter Wing

Overview: The 187th Fighter Wing, headquartered in Montgomery, provides the state and nation with a superior F-16C+ aviation package, RC-26B intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance platform, and expeditionary combat support functions organized, trained, and equipped for rapid world-wide combat deployment, domestic relief, and law enforcement operations.

- Members of the 187th Fighter Wing maintain constant readiness for a worldwide deployable mission. This past year, members regularly integrated with state partners and participated in exercises around the world. These missions include preparing a 300-plus member team to deploy to Kuwait in support of Operation Inherent Resolve and participation in combat exercises at Red Flag Nellis (Nevada), and Sentry Savannah (Georgia), as well as a number of individual personnel deployments executed throughout the year.



U.S. Air Force Maj. Jesse "Magoo" Proctor, a fighter pilot, 100th Fighter Squadron, Montgomery Regional Air National Guard Base, Alabama, takes off March 1, 2017, during Red Flag 17-2 at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada. Red Flag involves a variety of attack, fighter, bomber, reconnaissance, electronic warfare, airlift support, search and rescue aircraft. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Hayden Johnson.)

- The 187th Fighter Wing and Dannelly Field Air National Guard Base, Montgomery, Alabama, was selected as one of five finalist to be the next home base of the F-35A Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter to replace the F-16C+.

Note: Outside of this document's reporting period, Dec. 21, 2018, the 187th was chosen to receive the F-35. The Secretary of the Air Force, Heather Wilson, made the announcement following the completion of a yearlong basing process analyzing five competing Air National Guard bases. A total of 18 or more aircraft are scheduled to begin arriving at Dannelly Field in 2023.

- Pilots and maintainers deployed to Romania to assist our state partner transition from MiG-21s to F-16s. The Romanian Air Force received their first delivery of F-16s and we continue to strengthen the National Guard's State Partnership Program with our Romanian military partners. Romanian personnel also visited Dannelly Field to observe best maintenance and flying practices from seasoned Alabama Air National Guard members, which helped Romanian maintenance crew and pilots transition to the F-16 airframe.
- The 187th Fighter Wing Civil Engineering Squadron started an upgrade to the fuel barn with a \$90,000 addition. The project consists of adding a clean room for a paint booth in order to reduce environmental impacts.

Air National Guard

Major Command Updates



226th Combat Communications Group

Overview: The 226th Combat Communications Group, headquartered in Montgomery, exercises mission command of several subordinate signal units in order to provide command, control, and communications and computer support capabilities.



Alabama Air National Guard's 280th Special Operations Communications Squadron's personnel check the equipment on a communications site during a sandstorm in Iraq.

- The Eagle Vision detachment in Huntsville provided commercial satellite imagery support for U.S. domestic relief operations to include operations associated with Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, Jose, Maria, and Nate. Eagle Vision has supported numerous wildfires, floods, and military exercises. Additionally, the detachment supported operations and relief efforts in the Bahamas, Guadeloupe, Haiti, Puerto Rico, Mexico, and Virgin Islands. During fiscal year 2017, Eagle Vision 6 collected 8,703 scenes, covering nearly 3,600 square kilometers per scene.
- Successfully engaged cyber response activities during the National Guard Bureau Cyber Shield and U.S. Cyber Command Cyber Guard exercises supporting electrical and transportation industries across Alabama, Kentucky, and Tennessee. The 226th Combat Communications Group, with assistance from the 232nd Combat Communications Squadron and the 280th Special Operations Communications Squadron, provided support to the multi-state, joint force team in response to a simulated cyber attack on critical state and regional infrastructures. Additionally, the 226th is working closely with active duty counterparts to build and train the next generation cyber warrior.

Right: A two ship formation of F-16 Fighting Falcons from the 187th Fighter Wing maneuvers during a training mission over southern Alabama. (Air Force photo by Jim "Hazy" Haseltine.)



A 117th Air Refueling Wing KC-135 Stratotanker lands at the Alabama Air National Guard base in Birmingham, Alabama. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by: Senior Master Sgt. Ken Johnson.)

Right: Members from the 117th Air Refueling Wing prepare KC-135 Stratotankers during an exercise.





20th Special Forces Group (Airborne)

Overview: 20th Special Forces Group (Airborne) headquarters, out of Birmingham, is an operationalized organization based in the continental United States, which provides planning, execution, and logistical support on a daily basis to forward deployed elements in four separate theaters. Within the supported theaters, the 20th SFG (A) provides capability and capacity development while liaising with host-nation military and U.S. country teams.



Spc. Tommie Stevens, 20th Special Forces Group, low-crawls under barbed wire during a combat stress shoot during the Alabama Best Warrior competition Nov. 15, 2017, Pelham Range, Alexandria, Alabama. Soldiers competed over 4 days to be named Soldier or NCO of the year; Stevens won Soldier of the Year. (Photo by Sgt. Jeremy Dunkle.)

- As part of Operation Observant Compass, the 20th SFG (A) deployed a Special Forces company to develop, advise and assist four partner nations' security forces in Central Africa while supporting the embassy country strategy and the Theater Special Operations Command mission.
- 20th Special Forces Group, under Title 22 authorities, and in support of the Office of Security Cooperation-Iraq, maintains an enduring mission of two Special Forces detachments which train Iraqi Security Forces in Baghdad.
- The 20th manages on-going operations in four theaters, U.S. Africa Command, U.S. Southern Command, U.S. Central Command, and U.S. European Command.
- The 20th SFG (A) Special Operations Recruiting Detachment proactively engages the five active component Special Forces groups' leadership and installation transition offices. Through this engagement, the recruiting detachment has increased unit readiness while saving the Alabama National Guard more than \$2 million in schools and training funding.
- 20th SFG (A) deployed its headquarters and headquarters company, and elements of its group support battalion to Hungary for the Black Swan portion of the Saber Guardian exercise.



31st Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Brigade

Overview: The 31st Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Brigade is a multi-faceted major command in the Alabama Army National Guard. The 31st CBRN Brigade consists of two CBRN battalions (145th and 151st), one of which is responsible for the CBRN Enhanced Response Force Package mission; one Military Police battalion (203rd); one Engineer battalion (877th); one Signal battalion (115th); one Theater Transportation Opening Element (440th); a Cyber Protection Team; and the Civil Support Team (46th). With this capability, the 31st CBRN Brigade is postured to support both its wartime and defense support to civil authorities missions.

Because of the brigade's unique capabilities, it can respond to defense support to civil authorities missions within Alabama and throughout the continental United States. Due to the operational capability of the 31st CBRN Brigade, three units were selected for mobilization in 2017, the 115th ESB supporting Operation Enduring Freedom, 208th CBRN Company in support of Operation Spartan Shield, and the 152nd Military Police Company in support of Joint Task Force GITMO.

- The 46th CST conducted five standby missions and eight multi-agency training missions.
- The CST participated in the FBI's Isotope Cross-roads exercise, as well as a collective training event administered by U.S. Army North, which is a precursor to the training proficiency evaluation. The 46th also participated in the Vigilant Guard national level exercise in Georgia.



An Alabama National Guard Soldier takes part in an exercise at Pelham Range in Anniston, Alabama. The purpose of the exercise was to simulate responding to a real-world catastrophic event. (Photo by Army Sgt. William Frye.)



Soldiers from Bravo Company and Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 115th ESB, conduct military operations on urban terrain training during validation annual training in preparation for overseas deployment at Fort McClellan, Anniston, Alabama, May 4, 2017. (Photo by 1st Sgt. Joe Lundberg.)

- The 46th CST continued to partner with and provided support to several agencies throughout Alabama including the FBI weapons of mass destruction coordinators, the FBI SWAT team, the U.S. Coast Guard's Gulf Strike Team, the Alabama Department of Public Health, the Alabama Emergency Management Agency and multiple county EMAs.



62nd Troop Command

Overview: The 62nd Troop Command is a major subordinate command in the Alabama Army National Guard, headquartered at Fort Taylor Hardin, in Montgomery. The 62nd provides command and control of assigned Army National Guard units to ensure trained and equipped units capable of immediate mobilization for service in time of war or national emergency support. When directed, the 62nd provides defense support to civil authorities by serving as a command element or as a force provider. The 62nd is responsible for more than 1,400 Soldiers and an equipment inventory of \$138 million, which includes vehicles, weapon systems and communication sets.



Alabama National Guard 1-173 Infantry Soldiers train to perform a Squad attack on an air field from a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter in Foley, Alabama, Sept. 9, 2017.

■ The 62nd Troop Command is participating in an innovative partnership with Geneva City and County Schools, at the Geneva armory. This partnership provides for the sharing of the renovated and expanded facility which accommodates B Company, 1st Battalion, 173rd Infantry and the Geneva Career Technical Center. This partnership will provide local graduating high school students expanded opportunities for higher wage employment and enhanced vocational skill certifications, while simultaneously providing Army Guard recruiters and specially identified unit members to interact with students, and teach specially selected curriculum thereby developing relationships and recruiting opportunities.

■ The 1st Battalion, 167th Infantry and 1st Battalion, 173rd Infantry are maneuver battalions for the 53rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Florida National Guard and the 256th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Louisiana National Guard, respectively. This partnership is developed between states in the Regionally Aligned Forces (RAF) concept which allows National Guard forces to provide ready units for immediate activation.



111th Ordnance Group

Overview: The 111th Ordnance Group (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) is a major subordinate command in the Alabama Army National Guard, headquartered at Fort Alfred C. Harrison in Opelika, Alabama. The 111th provides command and control of assigned Army National Guard units to ensure trained and equipped units capable of immediate mobilization for service in time of war or national emergency support. When directed, the 111th provides defense support to civil authorities by serving as a command element or as a force provider. The 111th is responsible for more than 1,300 Soldiers and an equipment inventory exceeding \$407 million, which includes vehicles, weapon systems and communication sets. The 111th is unique in that it is the only Army National Guard Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) group headquarters in the Army inventory.

The 111th has units located in 13 armories located throughout the state. The command has five subordinate battalion-level headquarters consisting of one EOD battalion, an explosive hazards coordination cell, and three combat sustainment support battalion headquarters. Our battalions oversee numerous company or team sized units with varying capabilities including EOD, maintenance, transportation, medical, engineering, firefighting, and logistics. Our units are located in Huntsville, Jacksonville, Daleville, Tallassee, Tuskegee, Ashland, Fort McClellan, Alexandria, Clayton, Brundidge, Brantley, Goodwater and Montgomery. These units attend field training exercises periodically at the Fort McClellan Training Center, Fort Rucker, and Eglin Air Force Base, Florida.

■ The 111th Ordnance Group (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) is actively engaged in partnerships within the communities in which its Soldiers work and live. Our armories are often utilized as polling precincts within the state, and units host numerous events throughout the year to foster civic involvement. Examples include facilitating job shadow days, which expose high school students to potential career opportunities provided by serving in the Alabama National Guard, as well as holding an annual Christmas party for east Alabama special needs children. Our units continue to participate in Veterans Day and Christmas parades as well as other national and state holiday events.

■ The 111th Ordnance Group (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) has armory renovations ongoing in Opelika, Tuskegee, and Clayton. The renovation of these facilities is part of the overall modernization program being implemented through the Alabama National Guard bond initiative. These projects will create world-class facilities for our Soldiers and citizens and will contribute to our ongoing partnerships.



Members of the 666th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company conduct realistic explosive ordnance disposal training at Pelham Range, Alabama. (Photo by Army Sgt. William Frye.)



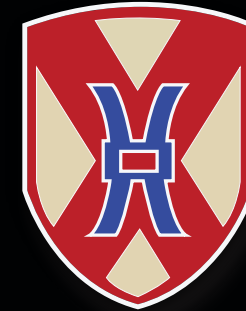
122nd Troop Support Command

Overview: The 122nd Troop Command, headquartered in Selma, provides mission command of subordinate units (approximately 900 Soldiers) in order to provide trained and equipped units capable of immediate expansion to war strength and available for service in time of war or national emergency as directed by the adjutant general, the governor of Alabama, or national command authority. The command has subordinate units throughout the state: 1st Battalion, 131st Aviation Regiment in Hope Hull and Mobile; 231st Military Police Battalion in Prattville and Alexander City; B Company, Detachment 4, 449th Aviation Battalion in Birmingham; B Company, 1-169th General Support Aviation Battalion in Birmingham; Detachment 1, A Company, 1-114th Aviation Security and Support Battalion in Birmingham; 131st Mobile Public Affairs Detachment in Montgomery; Multi-Media Branch in Fort Rucker; 1-111th Medical Evacuation in Hope Hull; Detachment 5, Alabama Army National Guard Operational Support Airlift in Hope Hull.

- The 231st Military Police Battalion supported the 2017 Maxwell Air Show by conducting training with the active duty Air Force Security Forces personnel. Sixty Alabama Army National Guardsmen worked alongside their Air Force counterparts during the duration of the event.
- The 231st Military Police Battalion and 214th Military Police Company partnered with the 7th Special Forces Group on multiple training events throughout the training year. The Special Forces Soldiers taught our MPs advanced tactics and weaponry while our Soldiers provided oppositional forces for their various training events.
- Detachment 1, A Company, 1-114th Security and Support Battalion supported the Alabama National Guard Counter Drug program by flying 320 hours in direct support of local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies.
- Detachment 1, A Company, 1-114th Security and Support Battalion supported the U.S. Border Patrol in Tucson, Arizona, securing our Southwest border by providing aerial observations and communication platform.



An Alabama National Guard, UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter refills its Bambi bucket assembly in a pond at Lil' Mole Run Golf Course, to provide aerial water delivery, at the request of the Alabama Emergency Management Agency, in support of forest fire suppression efforts in DeKalb County, Alabama, Nov. 19, 2016. (Photo by Army Sgt William Frye.)



135th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)

Overview: On order, 135th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) provides enduring logistics support in United States Central Command's area of responsibility; plans and executes sustainment, distribution, theater opening, joint reception, staging, onward movement and redeployment in Kuwait; reviews and plans sustainment in support of theater contingency plans; provides oversight of specific contract operations.

- In June, the 135th ESC was mobilized for the third time since 2009. It was mobilized for a nine month deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Prior to deploying overseas, the 135th conducted a mission readiness exercise as part of its validation process. This exercise was a two-week event during which Soldiers conducted a scenario based on the 1st Theater Sustainment Command (higher unit while deployed) to prepare for real-world scenarios the unit was likely to encounter while in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility.
- The 135th ESC hosted the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge competition for the fall of 2017. The competition consisted of six events over a four-day period which included a 100 meter swim wearing the Army Combat Uniform, 11 x 10-meter sprint test, flexed arm hang, 1000 meter run, a road march and pistol qualification. There were 320 total participants with 20 Soldiers from the 135th ESC. Of the 20 ESC Soldiers, 12 completed the competition, four earned the gold badge, five earned the silver badge, and three earned the bronze badge.
- The 135th ESC participated in the Jordanian Armed Forces Mobile Training Team exercise as part of the team from the 1st Theater Sustainment Command operational command post consisting of subject matter experts from the support operations section, exercise planners from the strategic operations and plans section, and some staff from the 1st TSC main command post out of Fort Knox, Kentucky. The training team conducted a 10-day exercise which focused on tactical and strategic objectives. The tactical objective was to provide the Jordanian Armed Forces alternative methods of thinking to execute staff processes to sustain maneuver forces in an area of operations. The strategic objective was to strengthen interoperability and shape theater security cooperation through the implementation of themes and messages authorized by the Military Assistance Program-Jordan.



Staff Sgt. Monta Whitfield, a supply sergeant for the 135th ESC, prepares magazines to be used during the final event for the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, Nov. 26, 2017. (Photo by Sgt. Jaccob Hearn.)



167th Theater Sustainment Command

Overview: The 167th Theater Sustainment Command plans and executes operational sustainment of active component forces responding to defense support of civil authorities or homeland defense contingencies in the U.S. Northern Command area of responsibility. Assigned to the Army service component command (U.S. Army North), the command participates in multiple annual exercises and coordinates sustainment of contingency operations ranging from complex catastrophes such as hurricanes, earthquakes, wildfires to man-made attacks against the homeland.

■ The 167th Theater Sustainment Command rehearsed this year's Ardent Sentry and Vibrant Response exercises through a series of internal staff training events call Empire Assurance. Empire Assurance 2017 practiced response to a nuclear detonation in a large U.S. city. Soldiers of the 167th trained on the exercise over successive months' drill periods in order to prepare the command and staff for one of the most complex defense support to civil authorities response scenarios. The command executed Ardent Sentry and Vibrant Response with its primary command post location at its Fort McClellan headquarters and provided command and control over multiple units including 3rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command, 4th Infantry Division Sustainment Brigade, and sustainment coordination cells located at both the Joint Force Land Component Command headquarters and the National Guard Bureau.



Maj. Gen. Allen Harrell, 167th TSC Commanding General, and Col. Eric Sloughfy, 167th TSC support operations officer, meet in the surgical tent with members of the 14th Combat Surgical Hospital in Humacao, Puerto Rico, Oct. 23, 2017.

■ The 167th TSC synchronized sustainment efforts for U.S. Army North during the 2017 hurricane response efforts. The TSC employed an array of support nodes including the 3rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command and the 4th Infantry Division Sustainment Brigade situational awareness teams and tactical command posts. Several teams deployed from the TSC headquarters including a Joint Force Land Component Command coordination cell in response to Hurricane Harvey, and a sustainment coordination team in support of Joint Task Force – Puerto Rico for Hurricane Irma/Maria response.

■ The 279th Army Field Support Brigade, a TSC subordinate unit, had multiple active duty short tours as part of its ongoing plan to achieve certification for its contracting specialists. Additionally, the 279th AFSB participated in Shared Accord 2017, an exercise sponsored by U.S. Africa Command and executed by U.S. Army Africa in order to enhance U.S. and other participating nations and organizations' capabilities, and bilateral and regional relationships. This joint command post and field training exercise took place at the South African Army Combat Training Center in Lohatla, South Africa, in July and August.



226th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade

Overview: The 226th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade is a major subordinate command in the Alabama Army National Guard with more than 1,600 Soldiers assigned. The brigade headquarters is located in the historic Fort Whiting, Mobile, Alabama. Subordinate units of the command are located from Citronelle to Dothan, with the majority of units within Mobile and Baldwin Counties.

The 226th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade conducts security area operations, maneuver support operations, and support to consequence management and stability operations in order to ensure the mobility, protection, and freedom of action of the supported force. In addition to its organizational mission, the 226th serves as mission command for a joint task force to provide defense support to civil authorities within the boundaries of an assigned area of operations in order to mitigate and/or alleviate the effects of a natural disaster or terrorist event.



Members of the Alabama National Guard's 166th Engineer Company work side by side with members of the Romanian Land Force to install a lightning protection system at Cincu Training Range, Cincu, Romania, July 3, 2016. The Alabama National Guard's 166th Engineer Company, from Winfield, Alabama, participated in Operation Resolute Castle 16 at Cincu Training Range, Cincu, Romania, from April through September 2016. The 166th Soldiers worked alongside members of the Romanian Land Forces on various vertical engineering projects to help facilitate the Romanians' training and infrastructure needs. (Photo by: Army Sgt. William Frye.)

■ All 226th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade units are closely involved with their communities, not only supporting Alabama communities during times of disaster, but also during many local community events such as parades, honor guards, military honors and other civic events.

■ 226th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade forms the nucleus of Task Force Tarpon, a joint task force designed to provide mission command of numerous Alabama National Guard units supporting civil authorities for hurricane relief or other natural or manmade disasters.

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